7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

163
165
844

The women of this country have ſeldom more than ten children, the common eſtimate is four or five, they bear none after the age of forty. They aſſiſt one another in their deliveries, which are effected with great facility: meanwhile there are midwives in Kamtſchatka, but their number is very ſmall. The accidents which prove fatal to ſo many mothers, are much leſs frequent to theſe women, than inſtances of child-birth in the open air, in roads, or wherever their occupations call them. On

mountebanks. Similar in their impoſtures, their reign and their fall are ſimilar. Various reflections might be made on this ſubject. That a people equally ſimple and uninformed, like the Kamtſchadales, ſhould for a time have been the dupes of the impoſtures of their magicians, is not aſtoniſhing, and will admit of an excuſe: but that ſuch extreme ignorance and credulity ſhould be made ſenſible of their error, and bluſh at it, is a matter of ſurpriſe and congratulation; for even with the moſt enlightened nations of Europe, do not ſome kinds of chamans ſpring up every day, equally perfidious and deſtructive! They have all in the mean time their apoſtles, their proſelytes, and a prodigious number of martyrs.